

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD, the specification of which



is attached hereto.



was filed on _____, as United States Application No. _____ or PCT International Application No. _____, and was amended on _____.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 (a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Application No.	Country	Filing Date	Priority Claimed	
			Yes	No
08-341636	Japan	December 20, 1996	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

Application No.	Filing Date
60/050,849	June 26, 1997
_____	_____

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application No.	Filing Date
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

And I hereby appoint Nelson H. Shapiro, Reg. No. 17,095, Mitchell W. Shapiro, Reg. No. 31,568, and James T. Wilson, Reg. No. 41,439, of the firm of Shapiro and Shapiro, Reg. No. 18,810, my attorney(s) and/or agent(s) with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, all correspondence to be addressed to Shapiro and Shapiro, 1100 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1701, Arlington, Virginia 22209.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under §1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

- (1) Full name of sole or first inventor: Masahiro Juen

Date: Dec. 18, '97

Signature: Masahiro Juen

Citizenship: Japan

Residence: Yokohama-shi, JAPAN

c/o NIKON CORPORATION (Intellectual Property Headquarters)

Post Office Address: Fuji Bldg., 2-3 Marunouchi 3-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan

- (2) Full name of second joint inventor, if any: Kenji Toyoda

Date: Dec. 18, '97

Signature: Kenji Toyoda

Citizenship: Japan

Residence: Chiqasaki-shi, JAPAN

c/o NIKON CORPORATION (Intellectual Property Headquarters)

Post Office Address: Fuji Bldg., 2-3 Marunouchi 3-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan

(3) Full name of third joint inventor, if any: Osamu Ikeda

Date: Dec 19 1997

Signature: Ogamin Ikeda

Citizenship: Japan

Residence: Yokohama-shi, JAPAN

c/o NIKON CORPORATION (Intellectual Property Headquarters)

Post Office Address: Fuji Bldg., 2-3 Marunouchi 3-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan

(4) Full name of fourth joint inventor, if any: Hisato Ide

Date: Dec. 17, 1997

Signature: Wissato Jole

Citizenship: Japan

Residence: Ageo-shi, JAPAN

c/o NIKON CORPORATION (Intellectual Property Headquarters)

Post Office Address: Fujii Bldg., 2-3 Marunouchi 3-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan

1. The first step is to identify the problem or goal. This involves understanding the current situation, identifying the problem, and setting a clear goal.